

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are amended. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nitta et al. (JP 9-72368) or Uehara et al. (US 4,886,149). Applicants traverse the rejection to the extent that it can be maintained.

Applicants' invention provides a hydraulic rotary damper having an oil chamber divided into two parts by a vane. The two parts of the chamber are fluid tight to restrict the passage of oil from one part of the chamber to the other to a prescribed path. In particular, the invention as claimed includes a seal part dividing in a fluid tight manner between a bearing rotatably supporting a shaft on a housing and an oil chamber (for example figure 10). The seal part includes a pair of washers 77a, 77b sandwiched between an inner face of the oil chamber and a base part 75a, and the base part contacting the washers (description beginning at page 8 line 25). This structure provides a rotary damper having a high damping force without leakage of oil from the bearing support of the shaft. Neither JP 9-72368 or US 4,886,149 disclose this structure.

JP '368 discloses seals 12a, 12b for providing a seal between a vane and the inner face of a housing. These seals do not provide a seal between a bearing for a rotor shaft 10 and the oil chambers 17a to 17d thereof.

Furthermore, JP '368 discloses other seals 16a, 16b as shown in figures 1 and 2. However, these seals differ from the "seal part" of amended claim 1 since these seals cannot achieve the above described fluid tight seal to prevent leakage of oil from the bearing. As shown in figure 1 of JP '368, these seals 16a, 16b cannot prevent leakage of operating oil between the oil chambers 17a to 17d passing through portions between the seals 16a, 16b and an oil seal 14a, and portions between the seals 16a, 16b and an oil seal 14b.

As JP '368 fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1, it cannot anticipate the claim. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn on this ground.

The Office cites Uehara et al. (US 4,886,149) with reference to figure 3, seal 28 as anticipating claims 1-7. The seal 28 provides a sealing contact between the outer edges of vanes

27 and an inner face of a circular cylindrical housing 11. This seal is not for sealing between a bearing for a shaft 13 and compressing side oil chambers 51 and expanding side oil chambers 52. US '149 also discloses seal rings 43, 49 as shown in figure 4. These differ from the claimed "seal part" as these seals 43, 49 cannot prevent leakage of oil between the compressing side of oil chambers 51 and the expanding side of oil chambers 52 passing through portions between the seal ring 43 and seal members 26, and portions between seal ring 49 and seal members 26.

US '149 fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1 and therefore, cannot anticipate the claim. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn on this ground.

Claims 2-7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. As claim 1 is not anticipated by Nitta et al. (JP 9-72368) or Uehara et al. (US 4,886,149) for the reasons stated, claims 2-7 are not anticipated. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-7 be withdrawn on this ground.

The Office Action cites additional references for disclosing related technology. However, these references do not appear to have been relied on for anticipation. Applicants have no comment as to their relevance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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